



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY
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BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE 37020
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TO: Tennessee Fire Service

FROM: David E. Hedrick, Director
Fire Service Program

DATE: October 15, 2004

SUBJECT: Update on TFACA's Fire Service Training Program

The Fire Service Program of the Tennessee Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy (TFACA) is on track for another great year of training. Since the start of the new fiscal year in July, Fire Service Programs has generated more student contact hours than any previous year. We are proud of the increased training that TFACA has been able to deliver so far this year and look forward to continue to help meet your fire department's training needs.

The latest data from the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System (TFIRS) and the Fire Department Recognition office shows that there are now 707 fire departments in the state. This is up substantially from a few years ago when it was estimated there were 680 departments in the state. With approximately 80% of the state's fire departments being volunteer, TFACA's Fire Service Program is committed to making our programming accessible to both volunteer and career service departments in the state. Our Field Extension Program continues to deliver training across the state at night and on weekends in host fire departments, while on-campus programs provide training during the week and on weekends. With the exception of holidays on the average there is fire service training being conducted every day by TFACA somewhere in the state. TFACA is your state fire academy and we urge you to take advantage of our diverse range of programs designed to meet your fire department's training needs. The on-campus courses do fill up quickly and you are encouraged to register early. To register for on-campus courses you can call the Academy at 1-800-747-8868 or 931-294-4111 and ask for Kay Hale, Registrar, to reserve space in any of the listed classes. For inquiries or scheduling regarding field delivered training courses, please contact your local Regional Coordinator/Fire Instructor, or Regional Fire Supervisor Jerry Crews at 931-294-4153.

The Tennessee Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD is on schedule for November 19 – 21, 2004. Congratulations to the 210 applicants that were accepted into this year's program. This is an excellent educational opportunity for the participants and will provide them a great opportunity to bring back new fire service knowledge and skills to share with their area fire departments.

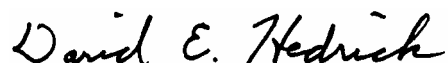
The application packets for Smoky Mountain Weekend scheduled for March 5 & 6, 2005 in Sevierville, TN will be mailed out in November. This weekend training event is conducted by TFACA in conjunction with the Sevier County Fire Chiefs Association and the Sevier County Training Officers Association. Our staff are predicting over 1000 firefighters will be participating in this weekend program. It is anticipated that all the classes will fill up quickly and we encourage your Fire Department to register early to reserve student enrollments for this event.

The first annual Tennessee Ultimate Fire Fighter (TUFF) Challenge was held at the Academy on September 25, 2004 in conjunction with the Tennessee Fire Chiefs' Association and the Tennessee Firemen's Association. This competition was designed to emphasize the importance of technical fire service skills & capabilities, as well as the camaraderie and spirited competition of the fire service. Nineteen teams from across the state competed in the timed skills course. Congratulations to the winners. They were: Career Fire Department Category - Brentwood FD First Place, Cookeville City FD Second Place, Columbia FD Third Place; and Volunteer Fire Department Category - Warriors Path VFD First Place, Putnam County VFD Second Place, and Rutherford VFD Third Place. The proceeds of the TUFF Challenge will go to the funding of a Fallen Firefighter Memorial for Tennessee. The TUFF Challenge event proved to be a great competition and educational event for the competitors and their families. We look forward to having your fire department compete in next year's event.

As was mentioned in the previous update to you, the TFACA is conducting Emergency Response to Terrorism (ERT) training to the states' fire and emergency service personnel through a federal Homeland Security grant. The courses covered under this grant are provided at no cost to the fire service. Courses are available on a request basis for field delivery across the state as well as on campus. These grant courses on campus also cover the cost of meals and lodging. I encourage Tennessee fire departments and their personnel to take advantage of these courses, geared towards enhancing the emergency response capabilities of our state's fire and emergency services to potential terrorist related emergencies. For more information on courses and schedules related to the Homeland Security Grant please contact your TFACA Regional Coordinator or call the Academy at 931-294-4111.

We appreciate the support of the Tennessee Firemen's Association, Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, the other state fire and codes organizations, and most importantly you the fire service of the State of Tennessee. We look forward to continue working together to improve the fire service of Tennessee through education and training. If the Fire Program's Staff or I can be of assistance, please contact us at 800-747-8868 or 931-294-4111.

Sincerely



David E. Hedrick
Director Fire Service Program
Tennessee Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy